

# Community Conversations: Session 1

"it's all about partnerships and it's all about relationships"

## What do these quotes mean to you?

"A lot of people who may see a person with a disability who doesn't have, who may have higher needs or more significant disabilities and **automatically assume** that they don't have the expectation that that person is gonna be able to have competitive employment."

## What employment barriers and solutions come from these quotes?

"I'm big on 'employ the ability, not the disability'...we can all sit here and identify our weaknesses, but really taking the time to **identify strengths** and what they can offer."

## Connecting Theme: Education

"I wonder if there's something that we can do to help promote understanding that *everyone should be able to work* if they so choose."

## For Who?

- Employers
- Educators and Providers
- Youth and their families

## How?

- Sharing narratives
- Mentorship
  - Peer Mentorship
  - Employer Mentorship
- Utilizing technology
  - Social Media
- Community partnerships

## Why?

### To change attitudes and mindsets

- Raising expectations
- Promote asset-based thinking
- Raising employment standards
- Overcome fear and bias